

Message Text

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51

ACTION L-02

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 SCS-03 SCA-01 SS-15 H-01

A-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06

PRS-01 SP-02 SY-04 /067 W

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FM AMEMBASSY BERLIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 417

INFO USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION USUN NY

C O N F I D E N T I A L BERLIN 5257

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, PORG, CGEN, CASC, GE

SUBJECT: PROTECTION OF AMERICAN CITIZENS: SITUATIONS RAISING
QUESTION OF TORTURE: THE GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC

A. STATE 031433;

B. BERLIN 5110 (NOTAL)

C. BERLIN'S A-5, FEBRUARY 13, 1975 (NOTAL)

1. IN THE SHORT PERIOD OF TIME SINCE THIS EMBASSY
OPENED, WE HAVE HAD LIMITED EXPERIENCE WITH AMERICAN
CITIZENS IMPRISONED IN GDR PENAL INSTITUTIONS
OR OTHERWISE DEPRIVED OF THEIR LIBERTY. WE KNOW OF ONLY
ONE AMERICAN CITIZEN IMPRISONED HERE, AND HE HAS BEEN
VISITED BY AN EMBASSY OFFICER ONLY ONCE SINCE THE POST
OPENED. HE IS IMPRISONED IN A MAXIMUM SECURITY
PRISON AT BRANDENBURG CITY WEST OF BERLIN. (SEE REF
(B) AND (C).)

2. WE HAVE LEARNED THROUGH SOURCES IN THE DIPLOMATIC
CORPS HERE THAT THERE ARE TWO PRISONS WHERE PHYSICAL
MISTREATMENT OF INMATES MAY WELL BE PRACTISED. THESE
ARE BAUTZEN PRISON, IN THE SOUTHEASTERN GDR, WHICH
IS NOTORIOUS AMONG KNOWLEDGEABLE FOREIGNERS HERE,
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AND A WOMEN'S PRISON, LOCATED SOUTH OF KARL-MARX STADT

(FORMERLY CHEMNITZ). WE WILL, OF COURSE, BE WATCHING
THESE INSTITUTIONS WITH PARTICULAR CARE, ESPECIALLY
IF AMERICAN CITIZENS SHOULD EVER BE INCARCERATED THERE.

3. FINALLY, WE BELIEVE THE DEPARTMENT MAY WISH TO
CONSIDER INSTITUTING PROCEDURES TO DE-BRIEF
RELEASED PRISONERS AFTER REPEAT AFTER THEY HAVE LEFT
THIS COUNTRY. WE BELIEVE THAT AMERICAN PRISONERS
HERE WILL BE UNDER CONSTRAINT NOT TO TALK FREELY ABOUT
PRISON CONDITIONS, CERTAINLY WHILE STILL DETAINED AND
VERY LIKELY WHILE STILL IN THE GDR AFTER RELEASE BUT
PENDING ACTUAL DEPARTURE.COOPER

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